



**Development
Services Agency**

News Release

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www.development.ohio.gov



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State of Ohio Seeking Partners to Support Minority Businesses *Proposals due April 29, 2021*

The Ohio Development Services Agency is seeking partners to help develop and grow Ohio small, minority-owned, and socially and economically disadvantaged businesses through the Minority Business Assistance Centers (MBAC) Program. This program offers no-cost counseling, state certification support, and trainings focused on creating jobs and increasing sales to Ohio minority-owned and economically disadvantaged businesses.

“The Minority Business Assistance Centers play a critical role in building Ohio’s minority business community,” said Lydia Mihalik, Director of the Development Services Agency. “Our advisors provide businesses the support and resources they need to grow, create jobs.”

In order to maintain the highest quality services for Ohio minority-owned businesses, the Development Services Agency is conducting an open process to select MBAC regional partners across the state. Nonprofit organizations, economic development organizations, and educational institutions with strong experience in business and economic development will be eligible for the program.

Service areas by city are:

- Akron
- Cincinnati
- Cleveland
- Columbus
- Dayton
- Toledo
- Youngstown

The Request for Proposal (RFP) is open until 3 p.m. April 29, 2021, with award notifications planned for May 2021. To apply and download the MBAC RFP, [click here](#) or visit mbac.development.ohio.gov and click on the RFP button. The program term for the MBACs is July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2023.

The MBAC program is managed by the Development Services Agency’s Minority Business Development Division and is a state initiative to develop and grow Ohio’s small, minority-owned, and socially and economically disadvantaged businesses.

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